

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for their examination of the present application. By way of summary, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, and 11-24 were pending in this application. In the present amendment, Applicants amended Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24 and added new Claims 25-43. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, and 11-43 remain pending for consideration.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Dada for the interview extended to the Applicants' representatives, Jarom D. Kesler and Lincoln S. Essig on October 20, 2009. During the interview, Applicants clarified patentably distinguishing features of the invention and Examiner Dada agreed to further consider the prior art in light of the amended claims. Accordingly, Applicants amended independent Claims 1, 9, and 18, along the lines discussed in the interview. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending amended claims, as well as the newly added claims.

Claim Rejections

Rejection of Claims 1, 7, 9-14, and 16-24 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 7, 9-14, and 16-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,253,327 B1, issued to Zhang et al. (hereinafter "Zhang") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,047,268 B1, issued to Bartoli et al. (hereinafter "Bartoli"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,408,336 B1, issued to Schneider et al (hereinafter "Schneider"). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

As discussed in the in-person interview on October 20, 2009, currently amended Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Zhang, alone, or in combination with, Bartoli and Schneider. Claims 9 and 18 recite similar subject matter as that of Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1. Claims 7, 10-14, 16, 17, and 19-24, which depend from either Claim 1, Claim 9, or Claim 18, are believed to be patentable for the same reasons articulated above with respect to Claims 1, 9 and 18, and because of the additional features recited therein.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1, 7, 9-14, and 16-24 be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Zhang, Bartoli, and Schneider as applied to Claims 1 and 9 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,619 B1, issued to Lim et al (hereinafter "Lim"). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, and 15 depend from either Claim 1, or Claim 9. As discussed above, Zhang, Bartoli and Schneider, alone, or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the elements of either Claim 1 or Claim 9. The addition of Lim fails to correct the deficiencies of Zhang, Bartoli, and Schneider. For at least the foregoing reasons, Claims 3-4, 6, 8, and 15 are believed to be patentable for the same reasons articulated above with respect to Claims 1 and 9, and because of the additional features recited therein.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 3-4, 6, 8, and 15 be withdrawn.

New Claims

Claims 25-43 are added by this paper. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 25-43 are fully supported by the application as originally filed, and that no new matter has been added. Newly added Claims 25-43 include limitations similar to those discussed above. Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 25-43 are patentable over the art of record.

Amendments to the Drawings

Figures 2-14 are added by this paper. Formal sheets of drawings will be submitted via a subsequent amendment. The addition of Figures 2-14 further illustrate some embodiments of the claimed invention. Support for the addition of Figures 2-14 is found in United States Provisional Patent Application Serial Number 60/111,497, Attachment H, previously incorporated by reference. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is being introduced by way of this amendment.

Amendments to the Specification

The Applicants have amended the specification to bodily incorporate disclosure from applications previously incorporated by reference as indicated above in the amendments to the

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specification. Applicants have also amended the specification to correct citations to the drawings. Applicants submit that no new matter is being introduced by way of this amendment.

Request for Allowance

In view of the foregoing, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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